

MEDIA ACCESS OFFICE NEWS

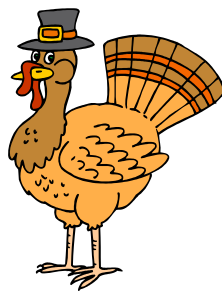


Disability Resource to the Entertainment Industry

M.A.O. MEMBER APPEARANCES

Codes:

AL-Leg Amputee B-Blind
CP-Cerebral Palsy D-Deaf
DD-Developmental Disability
Ds-Down syndrome
HI-Hearing Impaired
ID-Invisible Disability
LP-Little Person MI-Mobility Impaired O-Other
PWD-Performers With Disabilities
VI-Visually Impaired WU-Wheelchair User



M.A.O. MEMBERS AND OTHER KNOWN PWD WHO ARE SERIES REGULARS/RECURRING

Grant Albrecht (WU) as Dr. Leonard Giles
"CSI: New York" - CBS

Michael J. Anderson (LP) as Samson
"Carnivale" - HBO

Deanne Bray (D) as Sue Thomas
"Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye" - PAX

Robert David Hall (AL) as Coroner Dr. Robbins
"CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" - CBS

Anita Hollander (AL) as Shelley
"All My Children" - ABC

Geri Jewell (CP)
"Deadwood" - as Jewel - HBO and
"The Young & the Restless" - as Rose - CBS

Mitch Longley (WU) as Barry "Bear" Caldwell
"Joan of Arcadia" - CBS

and as Surveillance Team Member Mitch
"Las Vegas" - NBC

Wife, at such theatres as Circle in the Square, Manhattan Theatre Club, Hartford Stage and Cleveland Playhouse. As a young man, Grant trained as a classical ballet dancer at the Marin Civic Ballet and the Paris Opera Ballet, as well as in fencing and stage combat. After a debilitating demyelinating spinal cord condition left him reliant on a cane or wheelchair, he left New York for LA, where he continues to work in TV and film. He has appeared on such shows as **Law & Order**, **The Guardian**, **Just Shoot Me**, **Any Day Now**, and **Malcolm in the Middle**. He also has had roles in the daytime soap operas **All My Children**, **Loving**, and **As the World Turns**. His film roles include **S.W.A.T.** and **Voodoo Dawn**, as well as voice work on **Cowboy Bebop: The Movie** and **Jungle Book 2**.

Grant has done literally hundreds of commercials - everything from Imodium AD to "If you don't look good, we don't look good" for Vidal Sassoon. He is a ubiquitous voice over artist for such companies as Epson computers, CNN, Lexus, Lego, Havoline Oil, Buick, and Walmart, to name but a few. Grant is also the voice of numerous animated characters, most notably 'Leo the Egg' on the Nickelodeon series **Oswald**. He has done extensive voiceover work for countless CD-ROM games, most recently for the **World of Warcraft** series, and the best selling **Doom 3**. He has also narrated audiobooks produced by 'The Lighthouse for the Blind' in New York, where he also worked as a volunteer reader.

Grant is also an accomplished speechwriter and a sought after presentation coach. He is currently finishing two screenplays, a television pilot, as well as a book entitled **The Obstacle Course in Miracles** about his journey of illness and wellness since his disability. He speaks fluent French, plays piano and sings baritone, and in his spare time enjoys working and playing with children (he has nearly a dozen godchildren, and says his home "boasts more Lego's and Barbie's than any sane single man.")

Grant is a member of AEA, SAG and AFTRA as well as M.A.O. He participated in both the ABC and CBS diversity showcases for actors with disabilities, sponsored in association with the M.A.O. His recent recurring role as Dr. Giles on **C.S.I. NY** was very well received, and he hopes the networks will be encouraged to continue to be more inclusive in their casting. He is a determined advocate to insure that 'diversity' include people with disabilities, in

'Regulars' Bios

[Note: 'Regulars' Bios is an ongoing feature spotlighting those PWDs who have recurring or regular roles on television. Material is either obtained from official web sites and/or the actors themselves.]

GRANT ALBRECHT: Grant is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's prestigious acting conservatory, where he earned a BFA in Acting in 1988. He has appeared in New York, on and off-Broadway, and in several regional theatre productions throughout the country. His favorites of these include Tony Kushner's **The Illusion**, **What the Butler Saw**, **Later Life**, **A Chorus Line**, and **The Country**

November 2004

hopes that the media landscape may be broadened to represent us all.

DVD APPEARANCES

'Monster Man'

M.A.O. member **Steven DeRelian (AA)** has the supporting role of the "One Armed Man," and members **Patrick Slattery (AL)**, **Ben Bowden (AA)** and **Tom Olhausen (AL)** are featured as 'Red Necks' in a bar in this horror comedy release that is now available on DVD.

Congratulations to M.A.O. Members

Michael Lee (B) was awarded a prestigious honor by Community Action Marin (CAM), a program that administers various public health and human service agencies. At their annual Awards Luncheon held Oct. 14th, the second Community Achievement Award went to volunteer/community activist Lee, who is blind. After being a client of CAM's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Mike has become an active volunteer and advocate for that program. Michael accepted his award with his trademark humor, and spoke about his enthusiasm as a community volunteer, stating "If you aren't volunteering your time, if you aren't giving back to your community, well, you're a barnacle!" **Monique Holt (D)** performed in the musical **Jesus Christ Superstar** at the Open Circle Theatre in Rockville MD recently. **Christi Hockel (Ds)** appeared in Diablo Valley College's production of **Romeo & Juliet**. **Tobias Forrest (WU)** just filmed the lead in the music video for the song "Wonderful" by the band "Who is Alan Smithee?" **Afi-Tiombe Kambon (AL)** performed her one-woman show in Lacrosse, WI. in Oct. **David Roche (O)** toured his one-man show to several cities around the country during Oct. **Evelyna Castro (WU/O)** filmed an extra role in the short film **Speed Dating**, which will be available for downloading and will also air on PBS, and also a supporting role in the indie **The White Witch**. Singer **Jessica Callahan (B)** just did the jingle for Tokyo's biggest radio station, 81.3 J-WAVE, and also performed at the Viper Room main stage. **Tristan Thunderbolt (D)** will have the short that he produced and starred in, **Deaf Warrior**, screened at the upcoming Calgary Film Festival, and continues this month in **Shocktoberfest** in SF (see last month's newsletter for details). **Hannah Kritzeck (LP)** appeared on **The Maury Povich Show** on 10/20, and is having her wish to meet the Olsen twins fulfilled by the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Comedy Competition Winner **Tanyalee Davis (LP)** also appeared on **The Maury Povich Show** on 10/20, recently taped an episode of **Loco Comedy Jam**, and appeared at the Las Vegas Comedy Festival. **Darryl Evans' (MI)** radio show about disability issues, **Breakthrough**, on KRLA 870 AM, has been moved to Saturday nights, 9pm to 11pm.

Reminder to M.A.O. Members – We would like to have your appearances in film, television & theatre mentioned in

the newsletter in a **timely** fashion. Please email DGordy@edd.ca.gov with your info by the *third week of the month prior to the month in which you will appear.*

"MEET THE BIZ" Class Starting

Meet directors/producers/writers/casting directors while working on your craft. A new cold reading class with David S. Zimmerman will take place on four Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 10pm. The dates for the class are November 10 & 17, December 1 & 22. Special M.A.O. rate is \$50.00 total. Limited space available. Call David at 323/868-9913 for more information and registration.

Commercial/Interview Workshop

Laura Gardner will be conducting a free commercial workshop as well as interview technique for M.A.O. members. Space is limited, call the office and reserve your spot.

Instructor: Laura Gardner

of classes: 2 sessions

Dates: Wed. November 17 and December 1

Time: 2-4 PM

HOLLYWOOD NETWORKING BREAKFAST

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER is JOHN CYRE, HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT & ACQUISITIONS, NEW MARKET CAPITAL GROUP. John Crye has spearheaded the acquisitions team picking up THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST, MONSTER, WHALE RIDER, THE WOODSMAN and PS. John Crye first came to Newmarket in 1998 to build a creative department for the company. As a creative executive, John has guided the development of CRUEL INTENTIONS, MEMENTO, THE MEXICAN, DONNIE DARKO: DIRECTOR'S CUT, and THE PRESTIGE, Chris Nolan's upcoming post-BATMAN return to the indie world.

Date: Thursday, Nov 18, 2004, 8 AM-10:30 AM. For more info go to www.changingimagesinamerica.org. or call (310) 477-0996, ext. 3. Make checks payable to: Changing Images In America, P.O. Box 2688, Hollywood, CA 90078.

Media Access Awards Update

The 22nd Media Access Awards, originally planned for late Oct., has been rescheduled for Jan. 14th, 2005. Award recipients are still being finalized at press time, but confirmed guests include Governor's Award winner Heather Mills McCartney, SAG Award winner Peter Dinklage, Writer's Guild winner Stephen J. Cannell, Director's Guild winner Jack Hofsiss, CSA winner Vicki Huff and MAO Award of Merit winner Laura Gardner. Among the movie and television product award winners being honored are **The Station Agent**, **Stuck on You**, **Mean Girls**, **Joan of Arcadia**, **Carnivale** and **Smallville**.

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Gov. Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver have been invited, and we are hopeful they will attend. ***Due to space limitations of the venue, and because the Awards show is a fundraiser for the office and its programs, only a very limited number of tickets are being reserved at a reduced rate of \$50 for M.A.O. members, strictly limited to one per person.*** See order form on back page for details.

Christopher Reeve's Passing

We all mourn the loss of actor/director/disability rights advocate Christopher Reeve, who passed away on Oct. 10th. Mr. Reeve was a longtime supporter of the M.A.O., providing funding for an acting scholarship in his name for many years. For nine years, following an equestrian accident that damaged his spinal cord, Reeve worked as an outspoken advocate for spinal cord injuries and stem cell research and funding. He will be missed by all in the entertainment and disability communities. Below is a short memoriam written by one of our members:

"Often when we lose something in life, we gain something in return. Naturally, I am deeply saddened by the loss of Christopher Reeve to the world community, but I am confident that a positive lesson will be learned. Despite all obstacles, he rose above personal tragedy to give so much to so many others. As an individual with a spinal cord injury and lucky recipient of the Christopher Reeve Acting Scholarship last year, I have experienced it first-hand. Mr. Reeve was a light of hope and understanding to the many of us that face disability and challenge.

For the members and staff of the Media Access Office, there was a unique and special bond with Christopher Reeve. We are all artists seeking to make a change in the entertainment industry and we have joined as one voice trying to make a difference. Thanks to M.A.O. and the Reeve family, the "Hollywood" door has been opened and the dream of performers with disabilities is being realized. We are creating and playing parts that were not available before and we are making that difference.

Although I only got to meet Chris on a few occasions, he and Dana have been an inspiration and support throughout my journey. Their story, pro-active advocacy and compassion have been wonderful gifts to us all. Unfortunately, we must go on without Christopher Reeve, but the positive has found a path in the midst of this tragedy. Although an amazing man, husband, father, friend and inspiration is gone, it is a reward to know that there is a new angel looking over us all. Thank you Chris, Dana and Reeve family for sharing so much. All of our prayers, support and love are with you. Sincerely, Tobias Forrest."

***Looking for information about us?
Get more info about the work of the Friends of the
California Governor's Committee on
Employment of People with Disabilities, Inc.
and the Media Access Office at:
www.disabilityemployment.org***

*Do you have information for the Newsletter?
Write, phone or fax us at:*

**The Media Access Office
4640 Lankershim Blvd., Suite 305
N. Hollywood, CA 91602
(818) 752-1196 Voice (818) 753-3426 Fax
(818) 753-3427 TTY**

**Media Access Office – North
363 Civic Drive
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 602-1542 Voice (925)-602-1540 Fax
711 for CA Relay Service**

REACH US VIA E-MAIL:

Gloria M. Castañeda – GCastane@edd.ca.gov
(Send Gloria an e-mail if you would like to receive last minute M.A.O. information or announcements via email.)

Dr. Douglas Gordy (M.A.O. North) – DGordy@edd.ca.gov

The Media Access Office is staffed by the Employment Development Department and the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Volunteers and in-kind donations through the Friends of the CGCEPD, Inc. support the office. ❖



State of California

Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Employment Development Department

Norman M. Owen, Esq.
Chair

**California Governor's Committee on Employment
Of People with Disabilities**

Catherine Kelly Baird
Executive Director
**California Governor's Committee on Employment
Of People with Disabilities**

November 2004

Get Your Media Access Awards Tickets **NOW!**

The 22nd Media Access Awards will be held on Fri., January 14th at the Highlands nightclub (at Hollywood & Highland). A **VERY** limited number of tickets will be available to M.A.O. members at the *special reduced price* of \$50, **STRICTLY** one per member, filled on a first come, first served basis. To ensure your attendance at this price, please fill out the coupon below, and mail **ASAP** with your check, made payable to “**Friends of the CGCEPD, Inc.**” If tickets sell out at the reduced price, you will be notified so that you may choose to either purchase a ticket at the full price of \$100, or receive a refund. Any questions, please call (310) 388-4668 for further info.



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Ticket Order Form for 22nd Media Access Awards

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____ Email: _____

X **ONE** ticket at \$50 _____ Additional Tickets at \$100 Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail form with full payment to: Media Access Awards, c/o Bill York- Event Producer,
269 S. Beverly Dr., Suite 307, Beverly Hills, CA 90212.